

MATWATCH

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VOL. 4, NO. 2

JANUARY 14-20

Friday Night in Meadowlands

FLAIR TIMES SEVEN: STING

OUTSCORPIONED FOR NWA WORLD TITLE

EAST RUTHERFORD NJ----The finish was controversial. But Ric Flair knocked a dazed Sting's foot from the second rope on the count of three to regain the NWA world heavyweight championship a seventh time in 20:38 of the main event at the Meadowlands Arena Friday night.

2-Minute Match

**L.T. ANGLE
FALLS FLAT
AS LEX WINS**

**EAST RUTHERFORD
NJ----**Lex Luger defeated Big Cat Curtis Hughes in a two-minute quickie Friday night which featured an overly-ballyhooed Lawrence Taylor.

The All-Pro New York Giants linebacker, said by ringsiders to have a crowd impact similar to El Gigante, never contributed physically as Luger's second in the match and was there strictly for name value.

Paul E. Dangerously, in Hughes' corner, tried valiantly to save the match when he attempted to go after Luger and was clotheslined out of the ring.

Hughes entered the ring wearing a Refrigerator Perry jersey for the football match while Luger donned a number 22 shirt.

Dangerously had hyped the match on more than 20 New York area radio stations the day before the showdown.

The smoking gun was a video replay which showed Sting's leg on the middle rope on the count of two after Flair crashed into him from a simple shoulder block off the ropes. But a blinded referee Nick Patrick didn't see Flair knock off the leg and counted the fatal fall. A crowd of 4,400 (\$72,000) watched as Flair recaptured the belt he has dominated for the last ten years.

Patrick was downed from a Sting flying cross body block. Flair began to bleed at the 17-minute mark "just like Tommy Rich," according to MATWATCHer Mike Gunter, in New Jersey for the card.

Fans gave both stars huge reactions on their ring entrances but MATWATCHers in attendance say Sting, who has been sanguine over the impending belt switch the past month, had no enthusiasm during his ring approach. Other than when Sting mocked Flair's "now we go to school" pronouncement, the outgoing champ mustered little zip. A consortium of well-known hardcore fans and journalists rated the match lower than the POWERSLAM for Sting's Baltimore title win.

Sting's nonchalance began to turn the difficult New York-area crowd in Flair's favor at the eight-minute mark. Flair even tried a heavy heel crotch kick to Sting but was cheered for that move as well.

An explosion of babyface proportions erupted for Flair, who ended a disappointing half-year for Sting, who had been pushed to the belt after WCW market research indicated Steve Borden's character as most likely to draw kid and young adult appeal. But the Ole Anderson-created program of the Black Scorpion vs. Sting led to an image of a spooked, almost frightened champion rather than the invincibility of the WWF's Hulk Hogan and Ultimate Warrior.

Flair reclaims the title one month short of his 43rd birthday and his seventh reign ties former NWA champion Harley Race's title stints. After a short period of rematches with Sting, Flair moves into a program with Scott Steiner while Sting reverts into a tag slot with U.S. champion Lex Luger against Barry Windham and Arn Anderson.

Takes Hiatus

**EDDIE DOES
IT: SAYS
GOODBYE**

MEMPHIS---USWA/Memphis booker Eddie Gilbert, as predicted here last week, quit the promotion after a Monday night show at the Mid-South Coliseum.

Gilbert wrestled in a Southern title match against Cody Michaels and was scheduled to work the finale as the partner of his Memphis Mafia against Jerry Lawler, the Fabulous Ones and Jim Cornette.

"I fully intend to work the match," said Gilbert Thursday night by telephone, "but after the Cody Michaels match, I went back to the dressing room and (Memphis owner) Jerry Jarrett and I got into an argument, so I just told him I'd leave right then."

Gilbert, expected to become booker for Joe Pedicino's new Global Wrestling Federation, said he was "relieved" his stint was over, after five months of jockeying programs between political factions

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STEAMBOAT
INKS PACT
WITH WWP

THIS WEEK'S HEADLINES

CHARLOTTE---Former NWA world champion Ricky Steamboat, after a three-year absence from the World Wrestling Federation, has signed a two-year contract with Titan Sports.

The Jan. 8 signing ended three months of negotiations between Steamboat and Titan. Steamboat retains the trademark rights to his name and is guaranteed main-event status.

Steamboat held the NWA world title for a four-month period in 1989, shortly after Ted Turner bought out Jim Crockett Promotions.

ANDERSON RECLAIMS WCW TV TITLE

PERRY GA----Arn Anderson defeated Tom Zenk Jan. 7 here to regain the WCW TV championship, 34 days after losing it to Zenk in Atlanta.

Anderson's third TV championship reign came before a sellout crowd of 3,000 at the new Agrirama. The Anderson-Zenk match will air the weekend of Jan. 26-27.

RAPP/VON ERICH DUO THREATEN USWA STATIONS

ORLANDO----Officials of the new International World Class Championship Wrestling company have sent a threatening letter to stations carrying USWA wrestling shows.

The letter stated Kevin and Kerry Von Erich have a legal right to the syndicated time slots and stations were told IWCCW tapes will be sent to USWA markets beginning Feb. 2.

Station managers were told if they don't air the IWCCW shows, they face possible litigation. Most are ignoring the threat.

MATWATCH 1990 ANNUAL

Still plenty of time to order the 1990 MATWATCH ANNUAL: WHAT WENT WRONG? which has gone to the printers this week.

The naming of the 1990 MATWATCH PERSON OF THE YEAR and MATWATCHER OF THE YEAR highlight the edition, along with a 10-page analysis of reasons for the lackluster 1990 year in wrestling, a short story, "The Last Match," by Dr. Gerald Morton, the annual Wrestling Broadcasting System TV Log, the 1990 MATWATCH TV AWARDS and the year's top 15 news stories.

Price: \$12 (U.S./CANADA), \$20 (OVERSEAS).
Check, cash or money order to: MATWATCH,
16 ROBIN HOOD LANE, JACKSON TN 38305.

In Slaughter Angle

A PLEA FOR SANITY

This is not an easy week to talk about something as insignificant in world events as pro wrestling. By the time many of you read this, our nation could be in its most serious conflict of the past 30 years and some of your friends or relatives could be involved in it.

In the past week, rumors have leaked from the Titan organization as to how far Vince McMahon intends to go with what is an increasingly, in my view, tasteless storyline involving Sgt. Slaughter and the Ultimate Warrior. One story has Slaughter winning the WWF title at Saturday night's ROYAL RUMBLE and either there or on the Feb. 1 MAIN EVENT on NBC, threatening to burn the U.S. flag, only to be stopped by Hulk Hogan. Perfect WRESTLEMANIA setup, right?



Some of this, I'm convinced, is simply leaks to get people talking, exactly what McMahon craves. However, enough of my sources are valid enough, I believe at least portions of that scenario are getting at least token consideration.

Wrestling has usually been at its most successful when three elements come together: it is topical, issues are intensely personal and characterizations become excessive and exaggerated. Further,

there are an intensely loyal number of WWF fans who believe in Vince right or wrong and feel no matter what he does, it's business and that's okay as long as it makes him a buck. Others simply look at wrestling creativity and say, as a close friend did this past week: "It's only a wrestling angle. Why should people be so upset over it?"

In my opinion, here is why. This far transcends lampooning a Leqna Helmsley, a John Tower, or a Donald and Ivana Trump. The Persian Gulf is a life-and-death issue which is far too traumatic for many families grappling with why their loved ones have left. I know. I've witnessed six units of Tennessee Army National Guard troops leave for Saudi Arabia since September. I've seen families cry and wait with worry if they'll ever see their fathers, sons, sisters or daughters return. My reporters have watched final suitcases be packed. My own weathercaster has been the only local television news person in the country called to active duty. He's back now but could face another tour if war erupts, as it may well have. Again, this is not a put-on of embarrassments of politicians or celebrities. This is real life.

The devil's advocate argument is that Vince or any other wrestling entrepreneur is simply taking advantage of current events to antagonize people so much that it will increase \$22.95 buy-ins for ROYAL RUMBLE and \$30 orders for WRESTLEMANIA. It could. But if we are in the midst of a brutal conflict in the Middle East and hundreds of Americans come home in body bags, there is no place for this blatant a soldier-turned-traitor angle in the surrealistic world of pro wrestling. Personally, I feel the "boot from Hussein" bit has already crossed the line but you have to recognize why I am so conservative.

Twenty-three years ago, I returned from lunch to my tenth-grade history class to learn Al Sirmans had been killed in Vietnam. Al had been my next-door neighbor. We played together. I watched him learn to drive. He gave me my first football and it didn't matter to me if it was an old castoff. Al was a regular visitor when I was hospitalized with a life-threatening grade of pneumonia at the age of ten. My view of Vietnam changed with that September. It was Al's name I immediately sought when I visited the Vietnam Memorial.

That's why I find this Slaughter/Saddam trash about as funny as I do when people brag about getting sloshed. I've had 15 friends killed by drunk drivers. But that's another story. My view is but an insignificant one. But Vince, for once, consider taste over a buck. Consider humanity over entertainment. Let the Slaughter angle die the kind of death we hope our people can avoid in the Gulf. You and we will be better for it.

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(WWF/SYN) - [CHALLENGE]:

Jim Duggan d. Tom Stone;

Warlord d. Terry Davis;

Shane Douglas d. Black

Bart; Big Bossman d. Bob Bradley; Tugboat d. Spike Jones;

ROYAL RUMBLE Report; Earthquake d. Don Steel. BOMB-PLUS.

[SUPERSTARS]: Bossman d. Kent Carlson; Undertaker d. Ray Hammer; Rick Martel d. Jim Evans; (UPDATE) Sgt. Slaughter on Saddam Hussein boot; (From CHALLENGE) Mean Gene w. Ultimate Warrior; Ted DiBiase d. Danny Brazil; (ANGLE) DiBiase slaps Virgil and orders him to pick up dropped bills but Virg shakes his head and refuses until DiBiase whispers something to Virg to make him crumble & he picks up the green; ROYAL RUMBLE Report; Power & Glory d. Scotty Williams/Sonny Blaze; Davey Boy Smith d. Tom Bennett. RESTHOLD.

(PRO WRESTLING '90) - Yearender show, Part II: July-December. NO RATING OFFERED.

(NWA/SYN) - [WORLD WIDE]: Lex Luger d. Mike Hart; Bobby Eaton d. Tommy Angel; (VIDEO) Barry Windham/Arn Anderson in junkyard; Tim Horner d. Rip Rogers; Brian Pillman d. Dutch Mantel; (SULLIVAN'S SALOON) Freebirds show Kevin their gold record; Rick Steiner d. Topp Gallian; Larry Cameron d. Ray Hammer. RESTHOLD.

[WCW PRO]: Michael Wallstreet d. Scott Williams; Pillman d. Tom Burton; (VIDEO) Horsemen in junkyard; (DANGER ZONE) Paul E. w. Minotaur; Sid Vicious d. Mountain Man Bailey; Renegade Warriors d. Jeff Sword/Mark Kyle; Tom Zenk d. Moondog Rex; Konan d. Barry Horowitz. RESTHOLD-PLUS.

(LPWA) - Judy Martin/Lelani Kai d. Misty Blue Simmes/Heidi Lee Morgan; Nasty Girls d. Bambi/Malaya Hosaka; Lady X d. Reggie Bennett by DQ; Glamour Girls d. Ilona Starr/Maria Alvarez; Terry Power d. Bad Girl; Susan Sexton d. Denise Von Hoffman; (LOUISVILLE SLUGGER) Jim Cornette w. Magnificent Mimi. RESTHOLD-PLUS.

(USWA/SYN) - [CHALLENGE]: Top 10 USWA stories of year: 10. Craig Johnson comes to USWA. 9. Devastation attacks Billy Travis. 8. Tessa leaves John Tatum. 7. Adams-Austin feud. 6. Jeff Jarrett-Eddie Gilbert feud. 5. Jarrett vs. Devastation. 4. Gilbert-Lawler car rundown angle. 3. SUPERCARD. 2. Terry Funk wins USWA title. 1. Arrival of Global Wrestling Federation. DRAW.

[BEST OF CHAMPIONSHIP]: New Kids d. Sgt. O'Reilly/Tom Rush; Don Bass d. Freezer Thompson; Danny Davis d. Ronnie Leach; (REPLAY) Davis vs. Joseph Magliano; Tony Anthony/Doug Gilbert d. T.D. Steel/Ben Jordan; Cody Michaels d. Magliano by DQ. RESTHOLD.

(THE NEW IWCCW) - (OPENING SEG) Mario Savoldi/Kevin Von Erich announce ICW/WORLD CLASS merger; Undertakers d. Wild Bunch; Bob Orton Jr. d. Sonny Austin; Mondo Kleen d. Chris Michaels; Cactus Jack Manson d. Ray Oddysey; Billion Dollar Baby d. Angel/Set. BOMB-PLUS.

(USWA/WMC) - [8-MAN/2-3 FALLS]: Anthony/Doug Gilbert/Magliano/Sam Lowe draw vs. New Kids/Jerry Lynn/Michaels; (From MID-SOUTH/USWA TAG TITLE) Fabulous Ones d. Gilbert/Anthony to win belts; Fabs d. O'Reilly/Rush; (ANGLE) During interview, Jim Cornette goes behind Jerry Lawler & clobbers him w. racket & Fabs piledrive him on floor. Cornette, on phone,

TV
TEMPO

Jan. 7-13

says, "Terry, Terry...2 down. \$100,000, can you make it a certified check?" (SEG) Eddie Marlin says Eddie Gilbert is leaving USWA, so Southern title put up in one-night tourney; (VIDEO) Bill Dundee in "Gypsies on Parade."

RESTHOLD-PLUS. ...Fabs/Lawler angle great. Otherwise, DEAD!.

(WWF/USA) - [PRIME TIME]: Saba Simba d. Greg Valentine by DQ when Valentine decks ref and after, Simba ducks & Jimmy Hart clobbers Greg w. guitar. Greg juices. Hart runs to avoid angry Valentine; (UPDATE) Ultimate Warrior-Randy Savage saga; Duggan d. Tom Stone; (ROYAL RUMBLE REPORT) DiBiase makes Virgil clean manure from Ted's boots; Undertaker d. Randy Hunter; Earthquake d. Steel; Douglas d. Haku; Tugboat d. Boris Zhukov; Power & Glory d. Kevin Green/Pat Armstrong; Bossman d. Carlson; Warlord d. Davis; Smith d. Bennett. RESTHOLD.

(WCW/TBS) - [POWER HOUR]: Horner d. Rogers; (From WCW) Minotaur d. Mountain Man Bailey; Eaton d. Angel; (From WME) Freebirds d. Norman/Juicer and DDT Norman on head; (WNN) Gordon Solie w. Missy Hyatt-Paul E. saga, Terry Taylor demand for TV title match; (From WCW) Arn Anderson d. Taylor w. legs on ropes; Taylor d. Mike Thor; (From STARRCADE '90) Steiners d. Keiji Mutoh/Masa Saito; Pillman d. Mantel. DRAW.

[WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP]: Pillman d. Mark Kyle; Ricky Morton d. Bill Irwin; Renegade Warriors d. State Patrol; (ANGLE) Windham/Anderson interrupt Paul E. interview w. Renegades & the 4 brawl; Tom Zenk d. Tom Burke; (From MEADOWLANDS/NWA WORLD TITLE) Ric Flair d. Sting to regain title; (FOOTBALL MATCH) Lex Luger d. Curtis Hughes; Sid Vicious d. Norman; (ANGLE) Bobby Eaton challenges Zenk for WCW TV title but Taylor shows up and challenges Eaton; Konan d. Joe Cezana; Rick Steiner d. Jeff Sword; (ANGLE) Paul E. makes insinuating remarks about how Missy Hyatt keeps her job and Missy leaves ringside crying; Eaton draw vs. Taylor. POWERSLAM.

[MAIN EVENT]: Eaton d. Jeff Gambill; DOOM d. Horner/Allen Iron Eagle; (DANGER ZONE) Paul E. reviews saga w. Missy; Rich/Morton d. Sword/Rogers; Brad Armstrong/Tracy Smothers d. Rob Morgan/Jeff Stone; Mantel d. Todd Brewer; (REPLAY) Flair title win, Luger-Hughes. RESTHOLD-PLUS.

(PORTLAND) - Bart Sawyer d. Doug Masters; C.W. Bergstrom d. Al Madril by DQ when Al refuses to stop choking. As he tries to cut C.W.'s hair, Sawyer saves; The Hood (Ricky Santana) d. Larry Oliver when Brad Anderson distracts & Hood hits Oliver w. loaded glove; (PACIFIC NW TAG TITLE) Steve Doll/Scott Norton d. Grappler/Equalizer 2-3 falls w. 3rd fall by DQ as Grap tries to spit Norton w. chemical dye but catches ref Sandy Barr instead, so Grap/Eq retain belts. DRAW-PLUS.

LINES
OF THE
WEEK

1. Jim Cornette, WMC, on Stan Lane wearing Lawler's crown: "You look like you've been eating some margarine." 2. Dutch Mantel, WCW, on Tim Horner: "If you check out his hair, you'd think he's been drinking a little of that white lightning." 3. Cornette, WMC: "I'm going to sue this guy (Lawler) for ruining a perfectly good tennis racket." 4. Jimmy Garvin, S. SALOON: "When we're on the road, we have

SCALE: PINEAPPLE -
Must See. PILEDIVER -
Excellent. POWERSLAM -
Good. DRAW - Average.
RESTHOLD - Fair.
BOMB - Poor. PLUS -
Midscale rating.

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to do something to relieve ourselves." 5. Roddy Piper, WWF-SU, on Rick Martel: "Pierre Cardin he ain't." 6. Jim Ross, POWER HOUR: "Tim Horner is dragging his opponent down the aisle---and not for a wedding." 7. Paul E. Dangerously, PH: "After what I did to Lawrence Taylor last night, I'm probably in jail this morning. I would have tried to get Pete Rose's autograph but they let him out early." 8. Brian Pillman, WWW, to Mantel: "Your false sincerity is enough to induce vomiting." 9. Bobby Heenan, PTW: "Sunday, I'll be in Tempe, Arizona. I'm visiting some of the underprivileged areas of the country." 10. Paul E., PH, on Mantel: "Just in his honor, I might chew some tobacco."

11. Ronald P. Gossett IV, USWA, to Marc Lowrance: "I don't know what kind of an illiterate test you took to get this announcing job but you passed it." 12. Heenan, PTW: "I twisted my ankle once and took off six years to make sure it was right. You can never be too careful about these things." 13. Honky Tonk Man/Sean Mooney, PTW, on Tugboat: (HTM) "How come he's pulling his (Zhukov's) beard?" (SM) "Maybe there was some leftover lunch in there." 14. Heenan, PTW: "A fanny pack is a change purse you put around your waist when you're too cheap to buy pockets for your pants." 15. Heenan/Gorilla Monsoon, PTW: (BH) "What's the hardest thing you've done in professional wrestling?" (GM) "Deal with YOU."

SAY WHAT? - Kevin Von Erich, IWCCW: "My father was Fritz Von Erich, for those of you YOUNG enough to remember him."

QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK - 1. Cornette, WMC, to Terry Funk on collecting bounties: "Can you make it a certified check?" 2. Paul E., PH, to Ross: "Did you become the host of WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING by knocking Gordon Solie's false teeth out?" 3. Gossett, USWA, "What do you do? Write down on a postage stamp what your duties are?"

STRONGEST COMMENTS - 1. Paul E., WCW, to Missy Hyatt: "I'm gonna tell the people not only HOW you got your job but how you're keeping it." 2. Arn Anderson, WCW: "I want everyone associated with WCW to prepare for Armageddon." 3. Anderson, WCW: "The greatest fear America has is gang violence---and in 1991, we're going to be as violent as the law allows." 4. Paul E., PH, on Bobby Eaton: "...the best wrestler on television." 5. Tony Schiavone, THE WRESTLING HOTLINE: "The best manager in wrestling is a three-way tie between Jimmy Hart, Bobby Heenan and Sensational Sherri."

BEST PICTURES - 1. WCW, Horsemen video. 2. WMC, Cornette/Fabs attack on Lawler. 3. WWW, Dutch Mantel railed by Brian Pillman. 4. WMC, Stan Lane wearing Lawler's crown. 5. WWF-SU, fan imitating Undertaker's stare. 6. PH, Closeup of Eaton poking finger in Angel's eye. 7. WNN, Solie scratching nose before referring to Paul E. as "Mouthy."

NICKNAMES OF THE WEEK - 1. METHUSSELAH (Cornette on Eddie Marlin). 2. MOUTHY MR. DANGEROUSLY (Gordon Solie on Paul E.). 3. MICHAEL WAL-MART (Terry Taylor on Wallstreet).

INTERALLIANCE LINE - Tony Schiavone, WWW, on Rick Steiner's top rope belly-to-belly: "It's just like an earthquake tremor."

BEST VIDEO - WCW, for Horsemen in junkyard piece, even though I wasn't crazy about the message to younger viewers.

BEST AUDIO - Sting, WCW: "I had my foot on the ropes," after NWA title loss to Flair.

DREADED GLITCH AWARD - POWER HOUR, no narration on Freebirds vs. Norman/Juicer clip.

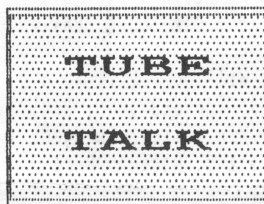
WORST SINGER - Kevin Sullivan, SULLIVAN'S SALOON: "Too-Ra-Loo-Ra-Loo-Ra."

ENGLISH LESSON - Anderson, WWW: "Never in the history of our existence have we WENT without a championship."

ALL-CLICHE TEAM - 1. Ted DiBiase, WWF-SU: "...blood is thicker than water." 2. Mantel, WWW: "...getting down to brass tacks."

BLOOPER AWARD - Rhubarb Jones, WME, for calling Todd Brewer "Todd BREWSTER."

BOO AWARDS - 1. WWF, for continued tasteless emphasis on Saddam Hussein presenting boot to Slaughter. It may just be a wrestling angle but to a lot of families with relatives in the Gulf, it ain't funny. 2. Anderson, WCW, for some of the statements in the Horsemen video. Anderson is very popular, despite his heel status, and his advocacy of gang violence was most inappropriate for youth, wrestling or not.



The Cornette/Fabs attack on Lawler was superb on WMC. Cornette popped Lawler as hard as I've ever seen him hit anyone with the racket. Good thing. Because that was the deadeast Memphis show in months without it....The racket actually had to be bent back in place after the broadcast....Saturday only,

Memphis had three wrestling shows opposing each other on TV. The USWA show on WMC was moved up to 10 a.m. because of the AFC football playoff on NBC at 11:30, WORLD WIDE on WPTY and WWF SUPERSTARS on Channel 30 were also going head-on at 10....The grainy, slow motion, black-and-white production on the Horsemen video gave it an MTV-style look....I'm told the early WCW shows from Dusty are not a reversal to the old 12-squash, 30-second match, 90-second interview format. He'd never get away with it now....LUCHA LIBRE officials are joining the Global/LPWA syndication consortium, hopeful of doubling the 18 U.S. stations its show currently carrying their show. An English-language version of the Mexican show may be available....Lots of unfortunate speculation going on in the WCW camp that Rhodes may try to put Tony Schiavone back on the Saturday night show. Early stories have Jim Ross doing the POWER HOUR solo with Paul E. likely moving to Saturday night color. Schiavone has really grown as an announcer but if you're going to stick him on TBS, put him on either POWER HOUR or MAIN EVENT, not the flagship show....Rhodes is expected to lobby to put Schiavone on either the CLASH specials or play-by-play on the PPVs....Announcing and interviews are weak and the matches so-so, at best, except for Cactus Jack's but positive notes on the IWCCW show are its production values and graphics....WWOR aired clips of the Lawrence Taylor bit and the Flair title loss on its late newscast Friday....A number of complaints about the \$25 top for tickets to the CLASH at the CNN Center atrium. That's higher than ringside for most Omni shows. The \$25 tag is reportedly hurting West Coast sales, when WWF usually offers a \$15 top....Lanny Poffo guested on the first hour of THE LARRY KATZ SHOW on WCBM/Baltimore Saturday night.

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MATWATCHING

THE 30TH MAN: Every sign points to Ricky Steamboat as the 30th man in Saturday night's ROYAL RUMBLE. Rick was being heavily pressured to sign his new Titan deal by last week and this group doesn't have another major star coming.

BUY-RATE FORECAST: RUMBLE has perennially been the lowest-buy of the WWP shows and I think that will continue. I'm forecasting a 2% rate because I don't think the RUMBLE means a thing to fans but a lot depends on what may or may not have happened internationally this week and whether the Slaughter/Saddam angle backfires on Vince.

MATPE NEWS: Several wrestling shows are being sold at the TV programmers' convention in New Orleans. After a one-year hiatus, Vince McMahon is back with his ring holding matches on the exhibition floor. Jack Petrik heads the TBS contingent selling WCW among many Turner offerings. Joe Pedicino and Tor Berg are pitching the Global/LPWA network. And one syndicator is selling reruns of GLOW.

THE DEAL: Pedicino and syndicator Max Andrews had several conversations last week and hoped to put together a final deal this week for Andrews Entertainment to begin selling Global. We'll update you next week.

A BRIEF NOTE: You may have read in other newsletters a note announcing me as the new host of GEORGIA ALL-STAR WRESTLING, along with GEORGIA WRESTLING JOURNAL co-editor Scott Hudson. Let me simply state I have been approached about such a prospect but I have been extended no contract as of this writing and will not be at the GAS tapings Sunday night. The news was prematurely aired on WVEU-TV last week.

MEADOWLANDS MOMENTS: A dressing room angle was shot to set up the Ric Flair-Scott Steiner CLASH event but I'm told it took about three takes because of fluffed lines.

AS SIMMONS TURNS: The planned turn of Ron Simmons to babyface began Friday night as Butch Reed decked him with a foreign object as Arn Anderson ducked. The DOOM-Horsemen cage match only ran three minutes.

JERSEY LOVES BOBBY: Outside of the pop for the Flair win, Bobby Eaton drew the top roar of the night. The Freebirds cost Bobby the match in a six-man against El Gigante/Tommy Rich/Ricky Morton and then blamed him for the loss. The crowd broke into "Bobby...Bobby" to egg on a split.

TAKIN' CARE OF BINNESS: Yes, Dusty was present. Insiders say WCW will announce on-air the week after the ROYAL RUMBLE that Rhodes has retired. Some sources insist it will be a deliberate prelude to Dusty "un-retiring." WCW still insists it will no longer allow its booker to be an active wrestler.

ANNOUNCER SHUFFLES: Dutch Mantel is off WORLD WIDE at the color mike and you'll see a rotation of Kevin Sullivan, Barry Windham and Gordon Solie in upcoming weeks. But expect Rhodes to join Tony Schiavone by February.

THE GATE: Reports are mixed. One the night of the show was \$85,000 but another WCW insider told me \$72,000.

IN JAPAN: Nine days after the NWA/New Japan show, the WWP/SWS affair will feature Hulk Hogan and Genichiro Tenryu vs. the Road Warriors (whom I'm told will be called that in their Oriental appearance).

BOTTLE TIME: WWP and WCW both administered drug tests last week but I'm told to expect no fireworks from them.

BOBBY TIME: We're further told not to expect any Titan disciplinary action against Bobby Heenan for his arrest on marijuana possession charges.

WHAT WOULD HAVE HAPPENED: After the Fabulous Ones' attack on Jerry Lawler Saturday, what would have followed was an attack on Tommy Gilbert, which would have brought Lawler and Eddie Gilbert together against the Fabs. After a three-week program, Gilbert would have suckered Lawler again, setting up the fact that Terry Funk had a bounty on both.

MONDAY IN MEMPHIS: Lawler and Bill Dundee had a revenge match against the Fabs and a one-night tourney was held for the Southern title. The Fabs won the USWA tag title from Tony Anthony & Doug Gilbert the previous week.

CORRECTION ON FEUD: If you get TV GUIDE, you realize our info was in error last week. The WCW-GLOW FAMILY FEUD matchups are airing THIS week on the CBS daytime version (10:30 a.m. EST).

THE EXPENSE: Personally, I don't believe the IWCCW tapes (see THIS WEEK'S HEADLINES) will ever be sent to USWA stations because it would cost about \$7,000 strictly for the dubs and mailing and those tapes would likely never be returned.

THE INTERVIEW: Yes, I've seen it. Kevin Von Erich's interview with Mario Savoldi at the opening of the new IWCCW show was perhaps the worst in television history. If it's not on in your area, get a tape just to see for yourself.

NEW MIKE MAN: Rick Sheffield is the new emcee for IWCCW and he has various color commentators.

HERB'S GUYS: Rick Rude and Honky Tonk Man both were at the UWF tapings in New York last week. Rude did not wrestle. Topliner: another Steve Williams-Paul Orndorff DQ finish.

WILL IT HAPPEN?: A Honky Tonk Man-Greg Valentine match was announced for the next UWF show but Vince McMahon is now trying to re-sign Valentine.

THE REVIEW: MATWATCHers at the UWF show had mixed reviews. One called it the "worst show in history" while another said it was an "okay show until Steve Williams broke the ring with a stampede," which created a 45-minute delay.

NO PUTSKIS: Channel 20 in Houston has nixed reviving the Ivan Putski-produced show which aired last summer.

GEORGIA TRIAL: This week's GEORGIA ALL-STAR show is a trial to determine if Jim Powell & Festus should keep the Georgia tag team titles. They won the belts under masks during a period when they were suspended from TV.

STILL FOXY?: We have had some reports Titan still intends to do a Feb. 23 special on FOX, as well as the Feb. 1 NBC prime time main event, but that's contrary to trade reports.

**WME TOPS
NIELSENS**



The first week of the new year did not exactly bring a revival in television wrestling ratings but WCW MAIN EVENT did well enough to eke out a narrow victory over WWF ALL-AMERICAN WRESTLING for the week ending Jan. 7.

WME scored a 2.7 rating and 4.3 per cent share of audience to nose out the 2.6/6.4 of ALL-AMERICAN, which has rallied slightly in the last two weeks.

The major story was the drastic drop for WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING after consecutive wins at 3.4 and 3.0. WCW fell 23% to a 2.3 rating. The first half was opposite the thrilling Miami-Kansas City AFC playoff game on NBC. The 3.9% share was the lowest for the TBS Saturday afternoon show since the pre-June 1989 period when WCW was shifted to various time periods and fell as low as a 2.8 share.

USA Cable's PRIME TIME WRESTLING, in its first week without NFL competition, did not gain much momentum. PTW posted a 2.4 with a 4.7% share.

WCW POWER HOUR stayed in its usual niche, scoring a 1.6/6.8.

CABLE

<u>Week Ending Jan. 7</u>	<u>Rating</u>	<u>Share</u>	<u>Total Homes</u>
WCW MAIN EVENT (TBS 1/6)	2.7	4.3	1.51 million
WWF ALL-AMERICAN (USA 1/6)	2.6	6.4	1.4 million
WWF PRIME TIME (USA 1/7)	2.4	4.7	1.3 million
WCW WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP (TBS 1/5)	2.3	3.9	1.29 million
WCW POWER HOUR (TBS 1/5)	1.6	6.8	896,000

<u>Week Ending Dec. 31</u>	<u>Rating</u>	<u>Share</u>	<u>Total Homes</u>
WCW WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP (TBS 12/29)	3.0	5.7	1.68 million
WWF ALL-AMERICAN (USA 12/30)	2.8	7.3	1.52 million
WWF PRIME TIME (USA 12/31)	2.6	6.1	1.41 million
WCW MAIN EVENT (TBS 12/30)	2.5	4.6	1.4 million
WCW POWER HOUR (TBS 12/30)	1.7	6.6	952,000

(NOTE: Next week's ratings are expected to be delayed for a one-week period).

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EDDIE QUITTS

(Continued from Page 1)

within the group. But other sources have told MATWATCH Jarrett and other competitors were shocked at Gilbert's decision to leave before the eight-man finale.

Jim Cornette had been contacted three days after Gilbert missed a Jan. 2 date at the Mid-South Coliseum and was asked for advice on how to deal with the planned six-week program with the Fabulous Ones and Lawler (which saw the Fabs turn on the Memphis veteran Saturday). Cornette told MATWATCH he felt Gilbert would probably make the Jan. 7 date and offered some contingency possibilities if Gilbert did not come. But Cornette also said he left matters in Jarrett's hands, telling the owner, "It's your business. You do what you think is best." Cornette said he felt bad about the situation "because Eddie brought us up here and we didn't want to make anybody mad."

Jarrett reportedly had made a decision to remove the booking slot from Gilbert after he missed the Jan. 2 date. As MATWATCH reported last week, Gilbert was not satisfied with results of a meeting with between Jarrett and Lawler and made his own decision to leave the entire group.

The Fabs-Cornette-Lawler program, which will eventually involve Jeff Jarrett, is expected to end Feb. 11. Gilbert is expected to take a hiatus until Joe Pedicino's Global Wrestling Federation begins operation.

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